

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 62

By Dickerson

A RESOLUTION to honor Head Coach James Franklin of the Vanderbilt Commodores on a historic and game-changing 2012 football season.

WHEREAS, in just two seasons James Franklin of Vanderbilt University has changed the culture of Vanderbilt Commodore Football by taking the program to new heights of success, resulting in huge wins on the field and unparalleled enthusiasm among the Commodore fan base; and

WHEREAS, on December 17, 2010, James Franklin became the 25th head football coach at Vanderbilt University, and in accepting the position, he became the first African-American head coach in the team's history; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, the Commodores tied a single-season team record with nine victories, joining the gridiron squads from 1904 and 1915, as Vandy compiled its most wins since joining the Southeastern Conference (SEC) in 1933; and

WHEREAS, Vanderbilt was 6-2 in the month of November under Coach Franklin, having easily eclipsed the football team's record for that same month over the previous past decade which stood at 3-32; and

WHEREAS, the Commodores concluded the 2012 season on a seven-game win streak, the Southeastern Conference's longest active streak, as Coach Franklin's sixteen career victories became the most by a second-year Vanderbilt head coach in more than a century; and

WHEREAS, James Franklin has directed Vanderbilt to back-to-back bowl games for the first time in school history, and the 2012 Commodores capped their 9-4 season with a convincing win in the Franklin American Mortgage Music City Bowl as they tamed the Wolfpack of North Carolina State by a score of 38-24; and

WHEREAS, defeating Southeastern Conference foes Missouri, Auburn, Kentucky, Ole Miss, and Tennessee, Vanderbilt was 5-3 in SEC play in 2012 as it matched the Black and Gold's only other five-win season against SEC teams that came in 1935; and

WHEREAS, under Coach Franklin, Vanderbilt has captured four SEC games by 23 or more points. From 1957 to 2010, the Commodores had four total wins against SEC opponents by 23+ points; and

WHEREAS, earning decisive victories in league play, Vanderbilt did so with an offense that topped 40 points in five games and a defense that ranked among the nation's Top 20 in several important statistical categories; and

WHEREAS, enthusiasm and interest in the program continues to soar as the total home attendance at Vanderbilt in 2012 spiked nearly 15 percent from the previous year with the Commodores playing to three sellout crowds on campus, the most since 1996; and

WHEREAS, taking their winning brand of football on the road, James Franklin's Commodores won four road games in 2012, including three in SEC action, which marked the most road victories by a Vanderbilt squad since 1948; and

WHEREAS, proud of its long tradition of academic excellence, Vanderbilt was recognized yet again in 2012 by the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) as among the Division I leaders in student-athlete graduation rates; and

WHEREAS, continuing to garner national acclaim for Vanderbilt's tremendous 2012 season, Coach James Franklin was one of six finalists for the prestigious Bear Bryant Coach of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, born on February 2, 1972, in Langhorne, Pennsylvania, James Franklin was a four-year letter winner at quarterback for East Stroudsburg University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology in 1995; he obtained his Master of Arts degree from Washington State University in 1999; and

WHEREAS, a devoted husband and father, James Franklin enjoys the love and support of his wife, Fumi, and their two daughters, Ava and Addison; and

WHEREAS, leading an exemplary coaching and support staff, Coach James Franklin has shared his vast knowledge and passion for the game of football with his players at Vanderbilt, building upon every success as the Commodores and their fans have committed themselves to being game-changers as the Black and Gold "Anchor Down!"; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend James Franklin of Vanderbilt University on his extraordinary success as Head Coach of the Vanderbilt Commodores Football Team and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.